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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/529,391	06/06/2000	JEFFREY S. HAGGARD	0818.0014C	7035

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EXAMINER

GUARIELLO, JOHN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1771	

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS-7

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/529 391	Applicant(s)	Haggard et al.
Examiner	John Gammie	Group Art Unit	1771

*—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—***Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1-100 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) 1-100 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary, PTO-413 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Office Action Summary

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 91-100, drawn to Plural component fibers.

Group II, claim(s) 78-90, drawn to Non-woven fabric.

Group III, claim(s) 1-41, drawn to Method of making a non-woven fabric.

Group IV, claim(s) 42-77, drawn to Apparatus or machine.

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2. The inventions listed as (Groups I, II, III) versus Group IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: A. The concept of designing machines or apparatus is a technical feature not found in the plural component fibers, the non-woven fabric or the process of making the fibers. B. Regarding Group I versus II, Group II versus III, and Group I versus III, these are standard technical features over the art, Mathes 4,369,156 anticipates or renders them obvious over this prior art. The special technical feature disclosed by Mathes is the non-woven web (Example 5), employing split multicomponent fibers. The multicomponent fibers comprise first and second non-hydrophilic materials which have a difference in heat shrinkage of at least 10% and can be crimped (column 2, line 61). The multicomponent fibers are split by contacting the web with water vapor at a temperature of 130 degrees C. As shown in Figures 1-6, the multicomponent fibers can have various cross-section shapes and patterns, (column 3, lines 37-40).

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John J. Guarriello whose telephone number is (703) 308-3209. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris, can be reached on (703) 308-2414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-5408.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


John J. Guarriello:gj

Patent Examiner

April 19, 2002

April 21, 2002


ELIZABETH M. COLE
PRIMARY EXAMINER